



Water Systems Show Mixed Interest in Assisted Monitoring

Based upon a survey conducted this spring, the Department of Health (DOH) has concluded that there is limited interest by Group A water systems in having DOH develop a program where DOH would collect source water samples and arrange for their analysis. The survey was done because in 1997 the legislature directed DOH to evaluate a voluntary program in which the state would assume responsibility for the collection and analysis of source samples for those water systems choosing to participate. In the spring of this year, DOH prepared and distributed a survey to help assess the interest of Group A water systems (with the exception of TNC systems) in having the state collect all required source water monitoring samples under a new, voluntary State Assisted Monitoring (SAM) program. The survey further asked purveyors to consider and rate the value of several informational services that would assist them in complying with this part of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

DOH sent the survey to 2,243 systems, and received responses from 647 (approximately 29%). Overall, approximately 45% of responding systems indicated they would participate in SAM. Slightly over two-thirds of the NTNCs and better than half of the systems with over 500 connections indicated a willingness to participate in SAM. The systems under 100 connections and over 1000 connections were the least likely to participate, with about 60% of the respondents indicating they would not volunteer for the program.

The survey responses showed that purveyors strongly agree that simplifying and streamlining the waiver process would be beneficial. Most systems also felt strongly that being provided with an annual list of monitoring requirements would make compliance simpler. Somewhat surprisingly, many systems did not see as much value in being provided an annual analytical data summary report that would summarize a year's worth of monitoring data and be used in preparing the "consumer confidence report," which each system must do annually starting in 1999.

Systems had the least interest in DOH collection of the source water samples, with only 25% of the systems indicating this would be very important. As expected, cost was an important consideration to most purveyors. Despite many systems seeing value in the SAM services, a majority said they would not participate in the program. The "lack of financial incentive" and the belief that "participation in the program would not save time or hassle" were the main reasons. Approximately 67% of the nonparticipating systems indicated they would participate if some level of cost savings (5%, 10%, or 20%) could be provided. Roughly 75% of systems willing to participate would also do so only if their costs were no more than 5% above their current source monitoring costs.

Since evaluation of the survey results show a low level of interest by water systems and because DOH may not be able to collect source water monitoring samples at a cost acceptable to many systems, DOH does not intend to offer a voluntary state assisted monitoring program at this time. However, since many systems would like to be provided with an annual listing of their monitoring requirements, the department plans to develop this service during the fall of 1998 and expects to begin mailing systems their monitoring requirements by mid 1999.

If you have questions or would like more information on the State Assisted Monitoring Survey results, please contact Brett Freier at (360) 236-3136.

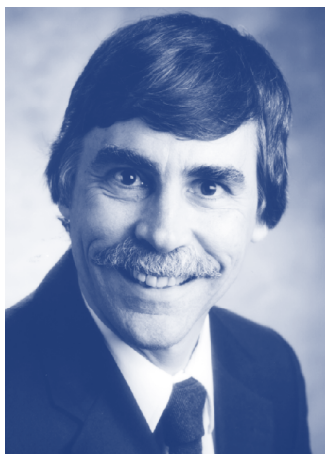


Issue 35 • September 1998

*State Board of Health to hold
adoption hearing for the revised
Group A Public Water System
(chapter 246-290 WAC)
Regulations
at 11:00 am on
November 12, 1998
Seattle Airport Hilton
(tentative location)
17620 Pacific Highway South
Seattle, WA 98188
Call Denise Grant at
(360) 236-3097
to confirm location*

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Letter from the Director...

As we move forward to start a new state fiscal year, it seemed appropriate to reflect back on the past year (my first as director of the Drinking Water Division) and also relay some of the division priorities for the coming year.

In the past year we made progress in many areas, a few of which are highlighted below:

Data Project: We completed the Feasibility Study for our data project and charted a course for developing a new data system, which will better meet our needs as well as the needs of our partners.

Regulation Revisions: We made substantial progress in the past year on our revisions to chapter 246-290 WAC (Group A Water System Regulations) and the companion Waterworks Design Guidance Manual. We are hoping to finalize the adoption of the regulations in the next few months and have tentatively scheduled a briefing with the State Board of Health in October, and a hearing to consider adoption in November.

State Revolving Fund: We completed the first cycle of loan applications under the new federal State Revolving Fund (SRF), receiving 88 applications for funding with 60 projects making the final funding list. For the second funding cycle (currently underway) we have received 46 applications for loans.

Partnerships: We have moved forward with developing additional capacity at the local government level by pursuing a variety of projects and agreements with a number of local health jurisdictions. These projects and agreements focus primarily on Group B water system oversight, non-community Group A water system evaluations and oversight, and Group A water system sanitary survey activities.

In the coming year, we will continue to focus on several new program requirements resulting from the 1996 amendments to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, as well as some priority areas we have targeted as critical public health protection issues. A few examples of these areas include:

Data Project: This project remains a high priority for the division and we are now entering the design phase for the new data system. We still have a long ways to go on this effort, but we are making steady progress.

Compliance and Enforcement: We will be directing more resources toward this area, focusing on correcting problems posing the greatest risks to public health. Acute water quality violations and failure of systems to meet basic monitoring requirements will be a few areas getting more attention in the coming year.

Consumer Confidence Reports: The new federal rules on Consumer Confidence Reports were released on August 19, 1998. Water utilities are required to produce their first reports by October 1999. We will be working with our Water Supply Advisory Committee, EPA, and others to more clearly define how Washington State will implement this new federal rule in order to have our program directions established as early in 1999 as possible.

To learn more about the division's priorities and directions for the coming year I invite you attend one of the Priorities Workshops scheduled for November 3 in Lynnwood, and November 5 in Moses Lake. For more information about these workshops call WETRC at 1-800-562-0858 (see related article on page 3).

Sincerely,
Gregg Grunenfelder
Director

Small System Assistance

Clallam County Forms Water Users Group

The Clallam County Water Users Group was formed about two years ago to provide a local network for small water systems in Clallam County to share ideas, problems, and in some cases resources.

The group has had several water systems, local health department staff, suppliers and Evergreen Rural Water staff attend their meetings. At its first meeting, water systems listed equipment and extra inventory they would be willing to provide on loan to other systems. They have toured several neighboring water system facilities, including Dry Creek Water Association, Crescent Water Association, Olympic National Park, and Port Angeles.

The group tries to meet on a quarterly basis at a centrally located facility, the Dry Creek Grange. Their meetings are informal and they do not charge dues. Call Cindy Kelly of Dry Creek Water Association at (360) 452-2780, or Mark Adolphsen of Crescent Water Association at (360) 928-3128 for more information.

If you are an owner or operator of a small water system, you should consider participating in a local group. Local networking is one of the best avenues for expanding your knowledge and resources with little investment.

For more information on other water related groups look for future articles in the Water Tap or contact: Lisa Raysby, Small Water System Program Manager, (360) 236-3147.

Fifty-Two DWSRF Applicants Nearing Contracts

Fifty-two 1997 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) applicants are currently negotiating contracts with Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED), for a total of \$22,675,810 of project loans. CTED expects the first contracts to be signed in September. All applicants have ninety days from the date the loan offer is made to complete contract negotiations and sign the loan contract, and 36 months from the date the loan contract is signed to complete the project.

These projects will be funded from Washington's first DWSRF capitalization grant (received in May of this year) for water system improvement projects. The DWSRF program was implemented when Congress reauthorized the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act and is administered by DOH and the Public Works Board (Board) along with its fiscal agent, CTED.

DOH received forty-six applications for the second funding cycle (1998) requesting \$20,431,506 in DWSRF assistance. Staff reviewed these projects for initial eligibility and forwarded a prioritized project list to CTED. CTED is currently reviewing this list and will develop a list of projects with funding recommendations to forward to the Board for approval. The Board-approved list of projects will be part of an Intended Use Plan grant application submitted to EPA later this year. DOH anticipates a grant award in the spring of 1999, and formal loan offers to be made soon thereafter.

DWSRF applications are due July 1 of each year to DOH. Public workshops are held prior to this date with announcements mailed in advance to water purveyors and interested parties. For more information or a copy of the DWSRF program guidelines, contact Chris Gagnon at (360) 236-3095.

Drinking Water Priorities Seminar

sponsored by DOH/WETRC

When:

Nov. 3, 1998 Lynnwood

Nov. 5, 1998 Moses Lake

Course covers:

Essentials of the Drinking Water Program Plan and update of the national Safe Drinking Water Act

Highlights:

Consumer confidence reports, issuing health advisories, sanitary surveys, small water system program direction, compliance issues and the Water Works Operator Certification program

Who should attend?

Water system operators, managers, owners, public works staff, local health department personnel

To Register..

or obtain more information call WETRC at 1-800-562-0858 in Washington. Others call (253) 833-9111, ext. 3369

Technical Assistance Available On-Line for Small Systems

Computers are becoming a more important avenue for small systems to receive assistance and information on system operations. Of 521 water systems under 1000 connections responding to a DOH survey, 43% had internet/World Wide Web (WWW) access. Of these systems, 44% of those systems with under 100 connections had internet access. In addition, many local libraries now provide computers with access to the Internet for free.

There are a few on-line discussion areas (computer forums) on the WWW related to drinking water issues. These discussion areas offer an avenue to post questions (or read other systems questions and responses), as well as to learn about additional resources available. Feedback is not immediate. A system needs to make sure either that responses are directed back to a personal email address, or that it reconnects to the on-line discussion at a later date to check for responses. Some of these on-line forums are relatively new and may not have a high participation rate yet.

If this sounds intriguing, you may want to check out the following sites:

AWWA Compliance and Technical Forums:
<http://www.awwa.org>

National Drinking Water Clearinghouse:
<http://www.estd.wvu.edu/ndwc/>

National Environmental Training Center
for Small Communities:
<http://www.estd.wvu.edu/netc/>

WaterWiser: <http://www.waterwiser.org/>

For other technical assistance ideas call Lisa Raysby, Small Water System Program Manager, at (360) 236-3147, or watch for future articles in the Water Tap.

Program Drafts Capacity Development Strategy

The Drinking Water Program (DWP) has drafted and submitted to EPA new system capacity development strategy that documents Washington's "authority" to ensure new systems have capacity.

The document submitted to EPA cites a number of statutory authorities already existing that meet this provision of the SDWA. Among other statutes, Washington noted that all new Group A (federally-regulated) systems must get an operating permit, and must complete a water system plan before getting the permit. This has been in place since 1991.

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments of 1996 authorized EPA to award capitalization grants to States for the purpose of funding a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. SDWA directs EPA to withhold a portion of a State's grant unless the state has "obtained the legal authority or other means to ensure that all new community and nontransient non-community water systems commencing operation after October 1, 1999, demonstrate technical, managerial, and financial capacity with respect to each drinking water regulation in effect, or likely to be in effect, on the date of commencement of operations."

The SDWA requires a state strategy on capacity development for existing systems be approved by EPA by August 2000. The DWP is drafting issue papers on this subject. If you would like an opportunity to review these issue papers and to provide comments or if you would like additional information about the Capacity Development Program, call Peter Beaton at (360) 236-3150.

*Visit the Division of
Drinking Water's Homepage
at
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/>
You will find...
Consumer Confidence
Report Information,
Staff Contacts,
Enforcement Section,
Publications,
and more*

AWWA Offers Help to Small Water Systems

*The American Water Works
Association (AWWA) offers a toll-
free informational support hotline
for any question or problem
regarding drinking water or
utility operations.*

*The AWWA's Small System
Operational Support Hotline is a
free service for small water
systems in the United States and
Canada with fewer than 1,000
service connections. The line is
staffed Monday through Friday
from 7:00 am. to 4:00 pm. Pacific
time. For assistance, call 1-800-
366-0107*

Court Affirms Ecology's Approach to Quantifying Water Rights

The following article is excerpted from the Department of Ecology newsletter "confluence."

The State Supreme Court's July decision in Department of Ecology v. George Theodoratus settled a long-standing debate about how Ecology issues water right certificates for public water systems.

In 1973, Ecology issued a water right permit to George Theodoratus for a planned Skagit County property development. The projected community of 253 homes grew very slowly and Mr. Theodoratus was required to obtain several permit extensions from Ecology. Beginning in 1992, Ecology placed new conditions on the permit extension requested by Mr. Theodoratus. Ecology decided that the water right certificate would only be issued for the water actually being used, not for water he planned to use or had constructed the system to deliver. The conditions placed on this last permit extension meant that Mr. Theodoratus would likely receive less water than he was originally granted under the 1973 permit.

For years, Ecology had issued certificates to water suppliers giving rights to water based on the capacity of the constructed water conveyance system (diversion works and main supply lines), rather than the amount of water actually used. Quantifying a water right based upon system capacity instead of the amount of water actually used is known as "pumps and pipes." George Theodoratus appealed the Ecology decision asserting that "pumps and pipes" was the appropriate interpretation of the law and not the amount of water put to beneficial use.

In July 1998, the Supreme Court determined that Ecology had the authority to condition the permit and that Ecology's interpretation of the "beneficial use" provision of water rights law was correct. The court did say that its decision did not apply to municipal (public) systems. The two dissenting judges noted that this decision would create major problems for water systems that construct their facilities, and then "grow into" their rights over a period of years. For further information, please contact Linda Pilkey-Jarvis at Ecology (360) 407-6644.

Rulemaking Process Nearing Completion

DOH is nearing completion of its revisions to the State Board of Health's (SBOH) regulations for Group A Public Water Systems (chapter 246-290 WAC), and hopes to have the revised rule adopted by November.

DOH finished its series of public workshops in June during which comments and concerns were received from the public regarding the proposed revisions. Written comments received through June 15 have been reviewed and considered in writing the final draft of this rule revision.

Additionally, three cost estimate workgroup meetings were held in Spokane and the SeaTac area to gather estimates from over 35 public water system purveyors representing large and small systems. Participants provided their projections of costs that would be incurred by complying with approximately 50 proposed changes in the rule. Cost estimates were requested for those changes that had generated debate and were regarded as either costly or controversial by the public. These included planning, source protection and regulation, system regulation, and cross-connection control issues.

These working group meetings generated estimates of the costs of these regulations from system operators who would be implementing them. These estimates have been utilized in deciding which provisions should remain in the rule and which should be eliminated because of high cost and/or minimal benefit, and for the economic analysis that is required by state law for any significant rule. DOH staff are finalizing these changes now.

DOH intends to brief the SBOH regarding the revisions on October 14 at its monthly meeting in Leavenworth at the City Council chambers. The SBOH is planning its adoption hearing for the rule at its meeting at 11:00 a.m. on November 12 at the Hilton Hotel at SeaTac (tentative location). Those interested in attending should contact Denise Grant at (360) 236-3097.

For more information regarding the WAC revision process, contact Jude VanBuren at (360) 236-3122.

New Regional Office Manager

Please join us in welcoming Joye Emmens as the Drinking Water Division's new Northwest Regional Office manager. Joye has been with the Island County Health Department since 1984, where she served the past ten years as Environmental Health Director. While her professional experiences have been wide ranging, she has always maintained interest and focus on drinking water and water resource issues. She also holds a bachelor of arts degree in geography/environmental studies and a master's degree in business administration. We're looking forward to Joye joining the division management team in mid-September.

*to Register call
these
Contacts..*

WETRC

*(Washington Environmental Training
Center)*

1-800-562-0858

ERWW

(Evergreen Rural Water of Washington)

1-800-272-5981

ASDWA

*(Association of State Drinking Water
Administrators)*

(202)293-7655

Marla Carter

(425) 257-8875

Bill Reynolds

(206) 632-2664

WSPHA/DOH

*(WA State Public Health Assn/Dept of
Health)*

(206) 362-4728

Education/Training Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Sept 20-21	Fire Hydrants Installation and Repair	Auburn	WETRC
Sept 22-24	Cross Connection Control Specialist Certifica. Review	Wenatchee	WETRC
Sept 22-24	Water Certification Examination Review	Everett	WETRC
Sept 22-25	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course & Exam.	Auburn	WETRC
Sept 23-24	Water Works Operator Certification Review	Wenatchee	ERWW
Sept 28	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Refresher	Auburn	WETRC
Sept 29	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC
Oct 2	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Refresher	Vancouver	WETRC
Oct 2	How to Comply with WISHA Confined Space Entry Stand.	Auburn	WETRC
Oct 3	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Vancouver	WETRC
Oct 5	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Exam only	Auburn	WETRC
Oct 5-7	5th Annual Joint Conference on Health	Yakima	WSPHA/
Oct 5-8	ASDWA Annual Conference	Colorado	ASDWA
Oct 5-9	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course & Exam	Auburn	WETRC
Oct 5-16	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course & Exam	Vancouver	WETRC
Oct 8	Evergreen Rural Water of WA "Fall Extravaganza" Conf.	Mt. Vernon	ERWW
Oct 8	Automatic Control Valves	Tacoma	WETRC
Oct 8	Safety – TBA	Skagit Co	M Carter
Oct 9	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Exam only	Vancouver	WETRC
Oct 10	Operations & Maintenance Workshop	Everett	M Carter
Oct 13	Leak Detection	Mason co.	ERWW
Oct 13-15	Pump Operation & Maintenance	Auburn	WETRC
Oct 14	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Exam only	Spokane	WETRC
Oct 15	Teleconference Small Systems	Skagit Co	M Carter
Oct 15	Privatization of Utilities	Call	Reynolds
Oct 16	Asbestos Cement Pipe Work Practice Procedures	Auburn	WETRC
Oct 19	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Refresh	Spokane	WETRC
Oct 20	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Spokane	WETRC
Oct 27-29	Chlorination Operation & Maintenance	Tacoma	WETRC
Oct 27-30	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course & Exam	Auburn	WETRC
Nov 2-16	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course & Exam	Spokane	WETRC
Nov 3	WA State Drinking Water Priorities	Lynnwood	WETRC
Nov 5	WA State Drinking Water Priorities	Moses Lake	WETRC
Nov 9	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Refresher	Auburn	WETRC
Nov 10	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC
Nov 12	Teleconference Automation	Skagit Co	M Carter
Nov 12-13	Hydrant Operation, Maintenance and Repair	Auburn	WETRC
Nov 16-19	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course & Exam	Spokane	WETRC
Nov 17-18	Hydrant Operation, Maintenance and Repair	Vancouver	WETRC
Nov 17-20	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course & Exam	Auburn	WETRC
Nov 30-Dec 1	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course & Exam	Spokane	WETRC
Dec 1-3	Wastewater Collection Operation & Maintenance	Auburn	WETRC
Dec 7-10	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course & Exam	Auburn	WETRC
Dec 10	New Water Products Day Program	call	Reynolds
Dec 10	Unique Water Projects Evening Program	call	Reynolds
Dec 11	Asbestos Cement Pipe Work Practice Procedures	Auburn	WETRC
Dec 14	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Refresher	Auburn	WETRC
Dec 14-17	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course & Exam	Spokane	WETRC

Tap Tips. .

Avoiding Lab Slip Errors..

Incomplete and wrong information on a coliform lab slip may prevent it from being entered into the drinking water data system. This may result in a violation letter sent to you in error! To prevent that from happening, here are the most frequent errors encountered and some possible solutions.

Problem: Either no water system ID # or an incorrect ID # is on the lab slip.

Solution: Write the correct water system ID number on a piece of paper and tape it to a clipboard or other item used when sampling. The water system ID number for your system can be found on your Water Facilities Inventory (WFI) form.

Problem: No check mark used to designate the type of sample in the “Type of Sample” section of the slip.

Solution: If you are collecting your monthly compliance sample, the “Routine Drinking Water” box should be checked. If you are collecting samples as follow-up to an unsatisfactory routine, the “Repeat Sample” box should be checked and the lab number and collect date of the previous unsatisfactory routine sample written in the space provided. Routine and repeat samples count for compliance with the Total Coliform Rule. “Raw Source Water,” “New Construction” and “Other” samples do not count for compliance. (Surface water and GWI systems are required to collect raw source water samples monthly for compliance with the Surface Water Treatment Rule).

Problem: Two or more check marks present in the “Type of Sample” section.

Solution: Determine the type of sample you are collecting (see above) and check only that box. If you are unsure what type of sample you are collecting, call the coliform contact person in your region.

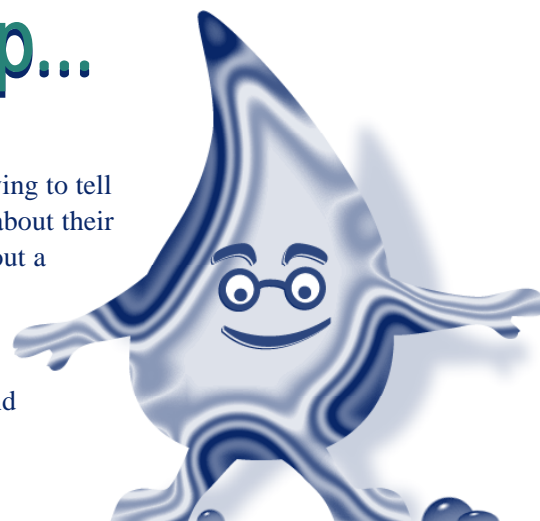
Problem: For systems collecting “Raw Source Water” samples - the source number is missing. **Solution:** Check your WFI form and determine the correct source number for each raw water sample. Again, if you are unsure, call the coliform contact person in your region.

Eastern Ops- Pat McCaffery (509) 456-2788
NW Ops- Jennifer Prodzinski (206) 464-6752
SW Ops- Sandy Brentlinger (360) 753-5090

Dr. Drip...

Dear Dr. Drip,
What’s this I hear about my having to tell my customers a bunch of stuff about their drinking water? Something about a “Consumer Confidence Report.” What is it? Why do I have to do it? What needs to be in it? Who do I send it to and when? Please enlighten me!

Signed, N. D. Dark



Dear N. D. Dark,
I’m very glad that you’ve heard of the Consumer Confidence Report! This report is a new federal requirement for Group A community water systems; that is, those that serve 15 or more connections or 25 or more people. Once a year, these systems will have to provide to their customers information about the quality of water they deliver. The first report, on water quality information collected during the 1998 calendar year, will be due by October 1999. The Environmental Protection Agency, which requires these reports, sees the Consumer Confidence Report as a way for water systems to communicate with their customers so they can make informed personal health decisions and become more involved in protecting our drinking water resources.

The report will contain information about the source of the water, how it is treated, any contaminants that were detected in the finished (tap) water, the likely source and possible health effects of contaminants (if any), a phone number to call for more information, and a few other things. Yes, that’s a lot to include. But do not fear! The state Drinking Water Program is developing assistance for water systems to comply with this regulation. And you’ll be hearing more about this important rule in the weeks and months to come. Stay tuned!

Dr. Drip

*For questions on the Consumer Confidence Reports contact:
Donna Freier, CCR Program
Manager, (360) 236-3162*

Program Makes Water System Data Available on the Web

The Division of Drinking Water will have a new computer application available to state and local government on the World Wide Web beginning September 30, 1998. The application is called S.A.D.I.E. The data in S.A.D.I.E. provides information about public water systems. Prior to the availability of S.A.D.I.E., this data was "locked away" in the Division's main data system and unavailable except by special request. Each request had to be filled by a computer programmer. Now, state or local government users with World Wide Web access will be able to access this data.

Examples of the types of data available in S.A.D.I.E. include:

- Public water system identification numbers, names, and source information
- Public water system owner and operating permit information
- Lead and copper monitoring and milestone tracking
- Water sample summaries and general enforcement information

Access to the S.A.D.I.E. application requires an authorized, unique logon identifier. The application form for the identifier is available from the S.A.D.I.E. link on the Department of Health Division of Drinking Water homepage, <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/>


For questions call, Kathy Pickens-Rucker at (360) 236-3105.

In This Issue:

The following individuals have contributed to the production of this issue of *The Water Tap*: Peter Beaton, Brett Freier, Donna Freier, Chris Gagnon, Janice Keller-Saul, Kathy Pickens-Rucker, Lisa Raysby, Jim Skalski, Jeffrey Skeens, Jude VanBuren, Ronni Woolrich, and Judy J. Sides, Editor.

The Water Tap is published by the Department of Health, Division of Drinking Water to provide information on subjects of interest to water system owners, water works operators and others interested in drinking water. Comments and questions are welcome. Past issues are also available by writing to the editor, The Water Tap, Division of Drinking Water, P.O. Box 47822, Olympia, WA 98504-7822 or email your request to DWINFO@doh.wa.gov

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